

Basic Detail Report



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Title

The French and United States factories at Canton

Date

1842-1843

Primary Maker

Chinese School

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

Framed dimensions: 562 x 710 x 35 mm, 4.7 g

Name

Painting

History

Up until the 1840s, Canton (previously known as Nanking) was the site of most foreign trade in China. Americans, Europeans and Australians were restricted to zoned areas in the city, consisting of residences, ports, hong's and warehouses. These were busy areas where merchants could trade tea, porcelain, paintings, furniture, silver ware, carvings and other domestic items for export. Many merchants, ship owners or captains commissioned Chinese trade artists to paint ships, landscapes or portraits in a western style of art. The artists produced a large number of paintings for foreign consumption and rarely signed their pieces. The hong's in Canton were a common subject in their landscapes.